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The printing press is correct; it is not

worth while to print reports which either

have no value or are not circulated.

The country, and particularly Repub-

licans, will watch the proceedings in

the House to-day with unusual interest.

It can be truthfully said that no Demo-

cratic administration has ever compelled

Congress to legislate against what Mr.

Cleveland called "repeated accumula-

tions of surplus."

The scheme of having three committees

to consider contested election cases is a

wise one, since it is of the first impor-

tance that the legislative body should

be made up of those who appear to have

been elected.

By the way, has the State Board of

Health organized so as to be of any value

to the State, or is there a deadlock over

the secretaryship because its members

cannot place qualification above the way

the man votes?

In less than two weeks after Mr. Cleve-

land was elected in 1892 gold began to go

out of the country, and it has been going

out ever since and will continue to do so

as long as his party's financial and eco-

nomic policies prevail.

The Washington correspondent of the

New York Times says that the President

will protect the credit of the country by

selling more bonds if necessary. If this

is the case, why was the panicky mes-

sage of last Friday sent out?

Everybody who reads the newspapers

knows that the revenues of the govern-

ment are not equal to its expenditures.

Consequently everybody except the Presi-

dent's immediate followers knows that

more revenue is demanded first of all.

The New York banks, instead of tak-

ing advantage of any stringency in the

money market, are preparing, through

their clearing-house association, to issue

loan certificates similar to those which

broke the back of the money panic of

July, 1893.

Some of the President's admiring or-

gans intimate that it would be a good

thing for him to sign his name to a line

that the people whom they cheated when they got into Congress cannot see that a duty on wool, without a corresponding duty on woolen goods, would not only close American woolen mills, but would eventually put the American wool grower to a disadvantage by interfering with his market at home. It was this same element, led by Senator Allen, which attempted to put agricultural machinery on the free list in the present tariff, but was tricked by the Democratic leaders after it had helped to put wool on the free list. This vicious little knot of men in Congress who call themselves Populists can always be counted on to oppose national legislation and to advocate schemes which would rob the majority of the people in the expectation that they and those they represent will profit by the injustice.

ANTI-WAR SENTIMENT.

In any serious controversy between the United States and England the war feeling is apt to assert itself first. Perhaps this is generally the case in international controversies, but it is peculiarly so with the United States and England. Both peoples are brave, jealous of their honor and their rights, and quick to resent an injury or insult. Though not quarrelsome, they are both pugnacious in the sense of always being willing to fight if necessary. When two such peoples come in collision they are apt to develop similar characteristics, and, in the nature of things, the first expression of feeling on both sides is apt to be warlike. War feeling is naturally of a more aggressive and more peace sentiment, though the latter is really the stronger of the two, is not so quick to assert itself.

The present controversy is a case in point. No international controversy was ever precipitated more suddenly or in more threatening shape. Mr. Cleveland's special message to the Venezuelan question came like a clap of thunder out of a clear sky. Without any preliminary warning, it brought the country face to face with a situation that involved the possibility of war. As the issue was presented, it involved also a question of national honor and traditional policy, the maintenance of which appealed very strongly to American patriotism. The first response, as might have been expected, was an outburst of war feeling. There was no mistaking its character. There was a general laying of odds of coats and collars up of sleeves. The military heart of the country was fired and the war spirit was abroad. The tenor of the President's message seemed to justify such an expression and the response was surprising. The voice of the people, as it first found expression, was unmistakably warlike.

It was much the same way in England. There, as here, the people were taken by surprise, and their first impulse, like ours, was to fight for what they conceived to be their honor and rights. They were no more afraid of us than we were of them. We would not yield an inch, neither would they. As in most sudden and heated controversies, the first impulse of each party was to insist that it was wholly right and the other party entirely wrong. Neither could afford to compromise or could see any way out of the difficulty except in a complete backing down of the other.

In a few days the anti-war sentiment on both sides began to assert itself, at first cautiously, then earnestly, and at last positively and strongly. Now it is the dominant sentiment in both countries. It is not a cowardly feeling. There is no cowardice on either side. Americans are no more afraid of Englishmen than the latter are of Americans. Both know the strength and resources of their respective countries and the fighting qualities of the people too well to be afraid. Neither nation would shrink from war if it was necessary, but because they know what a terrible war it would be and how hurtful to the cause of civilization they shrink from engaging in it unless it is inevitable.

Sober second thought has given the anti-war sentiment time to collect itself, and during the last few days it has found distinct expression on both sides. Beginning with commercial organizations and religious bodies, it has extended to the people, until now the predominant sentiment is as distinctly anti-war as it was at first warlike. This does not argue any surrender of principle or subsidence of patriotism on either side, but it shows there is on both sides a very strong opposition to war, except as a last resort and after every honorable means of averting it has failed. This development of anti-war sentiment is as honorable to both nations and peoples as was the earlier expression of war feeling, and is even more indicative of the conservative sentiment which is likely to control the action of both governments.

THE LAMENT OF A MUGWUMP.

Grover Cleveland has been the Mecca toward which the Springfield (Mass.) Republican has turned its face when it has burned incense to the one and the only possible Cleveland. It has assailed those who have refused to bow both knees in adoration of the President. It has put in its pillory and lashed with its many-strung whip those persons who have mocked at their worship of Mr. Cleveland.

But the end has come to blind adoration and the wholesale burning of incense. The date of the ending was the issue of the Venezuelan message. In the Cleveland as he was to that hour it glories as in a great past, but of the Cleveland who is after that event it speaks in a tone of chiding and bereavement. It waited a full week before it was able to confess that the halo of its god has been dimmed—waited until it had read in the London papers how wicked its President had been. Then it turned upon him with a full column of entreaty that he at once see the error of his ways in the Venezuelan matter and in the war talk which he put into his message. War, this mugwump organ tells Mr. Cleveland, is a dreadful thing, which, it seems to fear, the President does not fully appreciate, possibly because he was represented in the last one by a substitute. On its very knees the Massachusetts perfection of mugwump beseeches the President to "tell England and the world that we are proceeding in a friendly and not in a dictatorial spirit." It is bold enough to say to the President, to whom this article is addressed, that he has assumed a "swash-buckled attitude," rather than that of a statesman. It promises to restore his halo, relit the candles about his altar and resume adoration if the President will do this. But it cannot serve two masters on hostile thrones; so if Mr.

Cleveland insists on his unfriendly attitude toward England and England's policy it must sorrowfully proclaim that its Cleveland god is a painted image, stuffed with sawdust. It is a sad case.

THE INDEFINITE SEMI-COLON.

It appears that, if the matter has been correctly reported, the force of a law before the Supreme Court for construction depends upon a semi-colon. That mark of punctuation may change the whole tenor of an important act of the Legislature. It is not the first time that the semi-colon has made trouble in law. A semi-colon in two or three sections of tariff laws has led to decisions hostile to the revenue and to home industries. It was some trouble of that nature in the Morrill tariff act which gave the tinplate industry to Great Britain. It was a semi-colon which caused thousands to be refunded to the importers of women's hat trimmings, though the intent of those who passed the law was perfectly clear.

In these instances, and probably in the law of Indiana over whose semi-colon the Supreme Court is said to be cogitating, the trouble seems to arise from an inability to fix the function of the semi-colon. In the rules of punctuation in the old Webster's spelling book the comma indicates "a pause long enough to count one," and the semi-colon "a pause long enough to count two," the colon "three" and the period "four," with a fall of the voice. If those who have been writing rules for punctuating compositions had stopped there, we would not have had all this trouble, but the place teachers have been going off making new rules for years until no one can undertake to follow them, but each punctuates according to his pleasure, rather than his familiarity with rules. Many writers have adopted the plan of punctuating as little as possible, leaving the reader to gather their meaning from their clearly constructed sentences, rather than from the intersection of commas and semi-colons. Unfortunately the verbosity and intricacy of the language and construction or lack of construction in which statutes are written renders punctuation necessary. This being the case, it seems that so much trouble comes from the indiscriminate use of punctuation marks that there should be a legal treatise on that subject, defining the force of the different marks as they are scattered through the statutes.

If this cannot be done, why should not those who must construe the laws consider them with a view to ascertaining what was the design of the legislative bodies which enacted them? Why not have judges take the laws without a punctuation mark, except periods, and punctuate them in a manner which will enable them to be construed so as to carry out the intent of the legislators who enacted them?—a fact which could be ascertained by inquiry if it was not declared in the titles of the acts themselves. Why make an indefinite semi-colon, which an engrossing or enrolling clerk might have substituted for a comma or some other punctuation mark, so important as to annul or change the meaning of a law?

Whether the reports of important successes by the Cuban insurgents are confirmed or not, it is evident they have made some bold strategic movements and done some fine marching. In the latter they have much the same advantage over the Spaniards that our early Indian fighters often showed over the regular British troops in their superior knowledge of woodcraft and practical acquaintance with the requisites of light marching. When it comes to marching through woods and swamps and across country where there are no roads, European troops are always at a disadvantage against those accustomed to that kind of service.

In 1861, notwithstanding civil war had begun, the credit of the United States government with its own citizens was so good that noninterest-bearing obligations and "coin" bonds were taken at the rate of nearly \$1,000,000 a day to preserve the integrity of the Nation. The government credit is equally good now, and the people are as ready to support it if they are appealed to. There is no need of huckstering with bank syndicates, much less of seeking foreign loans. The great government loans of thirty years ago were successfully placed through the agency of the national banks, and the same thing could be done now.

English holders of American securities who recently sold them on a declining market are beginning to discover that they allowed unreasonable alarm to dominate their judgment at serious expense to their pockets. The London market has been surprised at the large orders from various parts of the continent to buy American securities, showing that continental investors were prompt to avail themselves of good bargains made available by the English panic. There is nothing the matter with American securities.

The report in yesterday's papers to the effect that the Cuban insurgents are marching on Havana with a force which will be able to shut up the Spanish troops in that city seems incredible. First and last, the Spanish government must have sent more than fifty thousand men to Cuba. If it has half that number on the island now, the larger part of them must be in the vicinity of Havana. There is no reason to believe that the insurgents have enough men to shut up twenty thousand men in that city.

However the Venezuelan controversy may end, it emphasizes the necessity of greatly strengthening our coast defenses. If we are going to assert the Monroe doctrine and maintain the national honor in other ways we must be prepared to back up our position with such a show of force and means of defense as will make it effective. At present our naval point is in coast defenses against naval attack, and the work of strengthening them should be begun at once.

The majority of the directors of the State Soldiers' Orphans' Home, at Knightstown, are of the Democratic persuasion, yet they have just selected for its financial officer, to succeed Major Wood, who has resigned, a Republican from Rush county, because they believe it is the applicant best qualified. This is an illustration of that nonpartisan management which should be observed in all institutions of that character.

The past week has been replete with incidents that tend to show there is no lack of patriotism in Yanketown. Exiled Englishmen who have been indiscreet enough

to make remarks derogatory to the United States have had their heads punched in short order, and no magistrate has yet been found willing to punish the puncher. Perhaps the most significant incident yet recorded is reported from Belvidere, N. J.

On Tuesday little Susan Briller, whose English parents have not lived long enough in this country to become Americanized, carried to the public school a small British flag. If Susan had merely shown the flag to her fellow-pupils—exhibited it as a sort of curiosity—she would not have got into trouble, but Susan, being of tender years, lacked discretion, and waved the flag in the faces of the other scholars. It must be admitted that Susan showed a great deal of grit, but her ignorance—something akin to the foolishness that impels a boy to stir a hornet's nest just for fun. Unlike her, however, the little American children were not prepared to punish their tormentor at a moment's notice. They pocketed the insult and bided their time. The teacher, however, who had gone home and each returned with a small American flag. Bold Susan was in her place when the bell rang, but she was not in school when it was dismissed for the day. Her fellow-pupils had given her a dose of her own medicine and a little more. And, as the teacher had been in the school room they filed past the little English girl and waved "Old Glory" in her face. Susan flew into a passion, grabbed one of the flags, tore it into shreds and trampled on the pieces. This was Susan's answer to the insult. The little Americans caught her in their arms and the children went home and each returned with a small American flag. Bold Susan was in her place when the bell rang, but she was not in school when it was dismissed for the day. Her fellow-pupils had given her a dose of her own medicine and a little more. And, as the teacher had been in the school room they filed past the little English girl and waved "Old Glory" in her face. Susan flew into a passion, grabbed one of the flags, tore it into shreds and trampled on the pieces. This was Susan's answer to the insult. 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